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Signature of Attorney/Agent

Case 7042R

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Divisional Application of: :  
FRANCIS JAMES ROURKE ET AL. :

Serial No.: : Group Art Unit:

Filed: : Examiner:

For: PROTEASE INHIBITORS IN :  
ABSORBENT ARTICLES :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified application.

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-20.

Please add the following new claims:

21. An absorbent article, at least a portion of which comprises a protease inhibitor having an  $IC_{50}$  of 30  $\mu M$  or less, as measured by a Purified Protease Method.

22. The article of claim 21, wherein the  $IC_{50}$  is from 0.00001  $\mu M$  to 10  $\mu M$ .

23. The article of claim 21, wherein the protease inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of a serine protease inhibitor, a metalloprotease inhibitor, a cysteine protease inhibitor, an aspartyl protease inhibitor, and mixtures thereof.